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LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
25TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

July 30, 2014

The Honorable Robert McDonald  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

The Honorable Dan Tangherlini  
Administrator  
U.S. General Services Administration  
1800 F Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20405

Dear Secretary McDonald and Administrator Tangherlini:

I write to express my deep concerns regarding ongoing delays to lease a new Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) community based outpatient clinic in New York's 25<sup>th</sup> Congressional district.

The suspension of the VA's authority, by the GSA, to enter into new, long-term operating leases is currently delaying construction of a replacement outpatient clinic in my district. On behalf of the 80,000 veterans I serve in Congress, I urge the VA and the GSA to work as quickly as possible to resolve this matter. Furthermore, I request that department officials brief me on what is being done to address this urgent matter.

Congress authorized the new replacement clinic in 2011 and funding has been appropriated for the cost of construction. The VA issued a pre-solicitation for the facility on May 23, 2013, selected an architect and engineer to design the facility, and completed a local market survey well before the end of summer 2013 as it prepared to issue a formal solicitation for offers to construct the clinic. It is now time to move this project forward.

While I disagree with the Congressional Budget Office's (CBO) 2012 decision regarding technical budget scoring that prompted the GSA's suspension of the VA's leasing authority, the GSA and the VA need to work together to find a solution to this problem. If this requires a legislative fix, Congress should be notified immediately.

Thank you both for your personal attention to this important matter. I look forward to your reply and to continuing to work with you on behalf of our nation's veterans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise M. Slaughter".

Louise M. Slaughter  
Member of Congress